vocational education because their requirements differ. I would like to know whether the HRD Ministry would take over that work, and, if required, also pilot an amendment.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I have answered the question as comprehensively as I could. Since another Ministry is involved in this, I have already talked to my colleague and we will sit together and see that a comprehensive view is taken. If some Act is to be amended, that is also part of it.

Explosives in imported metal scrap

*68. SHRI LALIT SURI:†
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from where metal scrap was allowed to be imported during 2004;

(b) whether the imported metal scrap contained explosive war-heads both used and live that caused loss of life and property as live war-heads exploded at various places in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that such dangerous imports are banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Recently certain cases have come to the notice of the Government wherein metallic scrap containing live shells have been imported thereby causing explosions and consequently loss of life and property. These imports are clearly in violation of the Foreign Trade Policy and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. After a series of Inter-Ministerial consultations the Government has laid down certain new guidelines and procedures for import of metallic scrap and waste. According to these procedures import of all kinds of metallic scrap and waste in unshredded, compressed or loose from will be accompanied by a pre-inspection certificate to the effect that the imported consignment does not

†Question was actually asked on floor of the House by Shri Lalit Suri.

contain any ammunition, or other explosive material or radio-active material irrespective of the source of such imports. Such imports will also be subject to 100% examination according to the procedures laid down by the Customs. Imports will also be restricted through 15 ports only.

The details of the country from where metal scrap was imported during 2004 is available in the Publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II (Imports)—Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has already admitted that in the imported scrap, live shells were found and there was loss of life and property. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of persons who lost their lives and who were seriously injured. I would also like to know whether the Central Government, the State Government, or those who imported the scrap have provided any financial assistance to them or not.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the blast at Ghaziabad factory led to the death of ten people. The Government is not aware whether the scrap containing live shells, imported from Iraq and shipped to India through Iran, caused the blast at Ghaziabad factory or not. Although, under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act there is no provision to penalise the foreign supplied of the scrap, the importer of such lethal consignment is liable to be prosecuted. A show cause notice has been issued under the FT(DR) Act to M/s. Bhushan Steel of Ghaziabad in whose factory the blast took place. Ten people were killed and eight people were injured in this blast. The compensation given by the company is, Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of those who died and Rs. 25,000/- each to the families of those who got injured.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Sir, my second supplementary is, since it is a matter of great importance, has the Government and the hon. Minister looked into the fact that there was a deliberate attempt to ship these ammunition to the country in connivance with some arms dealers?

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN: We are not sure whether there was any deliberate attempt on it but anyway we have made new guidelines for the import of metallic scrap and waste which do not discriminate between a war zone and a non-war zone. There are nearly 28 inspection agencies, which have been recognised. The import of metallic waste and scrap in

unshredded, compressed and loose form shall be permitted through the following 15 ports only: 1. Chennai, 2. Cochin, 3. Ennore, 4. JNPT, 5. Kandla, 6. Mormugao, 7. Mumbai, 8. New Mangalore, 9. Paradip, 10. Tuticorin, 11. Visakhapatnam, 12. ICD Tughlakabad, 13. Pipava, 14. Mundra and 15. Kolkata. And all the scrap shipment have been instructed to have pre-shipment certificate.

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which are the 29 categories of hazardous waste prescribed under Hazardous Wastes Rules 1989 and amended in 2003-04. Is this imported metal scrap inlcuded in this? If yes, how is the Ministry giving permission for importing the same? Part(b) of my question is, is it a fact that electronic scrap sent from England is being recycled here releasing both permanent and irreversible health damage and pollution. If yes, what are the measures taken by the Government to prevent this?

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN: I request the hon. Member to give a separate notice to get all these particulars... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is part of the question. If he is not well acquainted with the facts, let him say this frankly ... *(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: मैं यह बता रहा हूं कि जो जवाब सप्लीमेंट्री के ऊपर लिखा हुआ है उसके बाद कैसे बोलेंगे।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, in spite of the wide-ranging talks about the so-called Inspector Raj, such deaths are happening to the workers. Will the Government now reconsider, in view of the deaths of so many workers, even in the raging of so-called Inspector Raj, talking about Inspector Raj and all? Probably, we require more stringent inspection. What steps are being taken by the Government to see that such deaths to these poor workers do not happen? Such inspections are more necessary. Let us not talk loosely about Inspector Raj.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN: We have intensified the inspection and, on all the 15 ports, where the metal scrap is allowed to be imported, we have tightened the security and the inspection is being done... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JIBON ROY: He is talking about regular inspection.

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN: Yes, regular intensive inspection has been ordered.

श्री सभापति: इस क्वेश्चन को मैं डैफर करता हूं।....(व्यवधान) मैंने बताया कि मैं इस क्वेश्चन के जवाब को डैफर करता हूं। ...(व्यवधान)

SHRI JIBON ROY: There should be some change in the law or in the system.

श्री सभापति: मैं इसको डैफर करता हूं। माननीय मंत्री महोदय तैयार होकर आएंगे इन क्वेश्चंस के लाइट में।

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: We Wecome it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

OBCs of other States

*69. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the OBCs of other States are not treated as Other Backward Classes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government would instruct the Delhi Government to provide all the facilities to OBCs of other States?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to existing Government instructions, the Other Backward Class person on migration from the State/UT of his origin to another State/ UT where his caste is not in the OBC list is entitled to the concessions/ benefits admissible to the OBCs from the State of his origin, but he will not be eligible for the concessions/benefits of the State to which he has migrated.

(c) No Sir, the instructions mentioned in part (b) covers all the State Governments/Union Territories including the NCT of Delhi.

Allocation for school education

*70. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for school education during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;